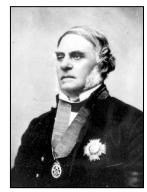
Early Unauthorized Logging on Burrard Inlet — A Letter to John Hall from Judge H.P.P. Crease

Researched and written by Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, Nov 2006; updated Dec 2013.

An interesting footnote to the early history of British Columbia was an incident in 1868 involving the unauthorized cutting of trees on Burrard Inlet. The incident itself is of no significance, but the parties involved and the location of the incident serve to highlight the early history of both Burrard Inlet and the young *Colony of British Columbia*.

When the *Fraser Gold Rush* began in the spring of 1858, there were only about 250 to 300 Europeans living in the Fraser Valley. The gold rush brought on the order of 30,000 miners flocking to the area in the quest for riches, many of whom came north from the California gold fields. As a result, the British Colonial office declared a new crown colony on the mainland called *British Columbia* and appointed Sir James Douglas as the first Governor. ⁽¹⁾ The colony was first proclaimed at *Fort Langley* on 19th November, 1858, but in 1859 the capital was moved to the planned settlement called *New Westminster*. This settlement



Sir James Douglas (BCA A-01229)

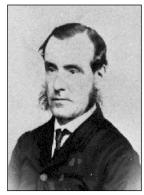
was on the northern banks of the Fraser River which strategically commanded all the branches of the river mouth.



Col. R.C. Moody (BCA A-01722)

The glowing accounts of the discovery of gold on the Fraser River bars, in the English newspapers, decided Robert Burnaby to come to Victoria. When he arrived here in the fall of 1858 he brought with him a letter of introduction to Governor Douglas from the Colonial Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Edward Bulwer Lytton, dated 8th October 1858. Soon after the arrival of Colonel Richard Clement Moody, RE, on Christmas Day of the same year, the Governor, in view of the laudatory letters of introduction, presented Burnaby to Colonel Moody, who at once appointed him as secretary. (2)

As private secretary to Colonel Moody, the Colony's land commissioner and commanding officer of the Royal Engineers during the survey of New Westminster in 1859, Robert Burnaby displayed notable talents as an explorer, legislator and speaker. In 1859, when Moody received word from local natives that a fresh water lake existed north of New Westminster, Burnaby immediately volunteered for the survey party. Burnaby was the first Caucasian to set eyes on the lake, and Colonel Moody would later name his discovery *Burnaby Lake*, a name that pioneer citizens would unanimously choose for the municipality of Burnaby in 1892. (2)



Robert Burnaby (BCA A-01134)



Captain G. H. Richards (BCA A-03352)

While surveying Burrard Inlet, Capt. George Henry Richards, H.M.S. Plumper, reported that "an apparently extensive view of coal occurred on the southern side of the inner harbour, about a mile and a half within the first narrows." The report is dated 14th day of June, 1859. Knowing of that report as "inside information", Burnaby and another fellow employee, following their discharge from the government service, lost no time in investigating these coal measures, and on July 21st, 1859, a syndicate, composed of J.J. Southgate, Burnaby, A.F. Main, and others, was formed, and an application made for the rights of exploring these coal measures, but no coal measures of value were found. This did not convince Burnaby that they were not there, and on January 1st, 1860, Burnaby applied for a pre-emption "on the borders of Burrard Inlet on the south side of the Naval Reserve, at the coal site." Lance-Corporal George Turner, RE, surveyed both Burnaby's pre-emption (District Lot 181)

and the adjacent parcel for Judge H.P.P. Crease (District Lot 182) in March 1863, and in October 1863, 149 acres were Crown granted to Burnaby. (2)

Prior to 1860 there were no white settlers living on Burrard Inlet. In 1862 John Morton, Samuel Brighouse and William Hailstone heard that there was coal along the shores of Burrard Inlet and decided to start a brick-making business there. On 2nd November 1862, these men made the famous "Brickmaker's Claim", buying the 550 acres of land bounded by Burrard Street, English Bay, Stanley Park and Burrard Inlet. They paid one dollar an acre, which was a lot of money at the time. Unfortunately, "The Three Greenhorns" as they came to be known, were unsuccessful in developing their land which was then total wilderness.



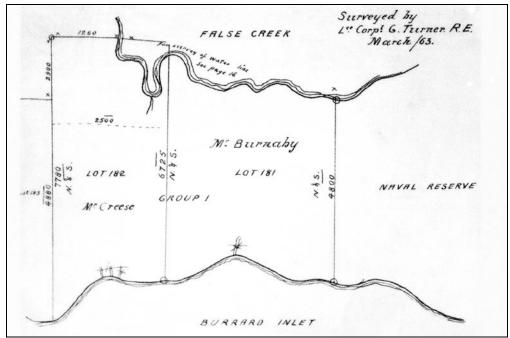
George Turner, RE (BCA G-04039)

For centuries the sheltered bay on Burrard Inlet (where *New Brighton Park* is today) provided a natural stopping point,

Khanamoot, for local native peoples beaching canoes on their way to pick berries or hunt deer and elk in the productive grounds surrounding Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake. This old aboriginal trail led all the way to the Kwantlen settlements on the Fraser River where the gold rush town of New Westminster was to appear suddenly in 1859. In 1863 Colonel R. C. Moody of the Royal Engineers decided Khanamoot was the logical place for a future saltwater port to develop, and "marked a spot near the Second Narrows at which he desired the Douglas Road to end". Colonel Moody supervised the creation of a government town reserve that became known as the Hastings Townsite.

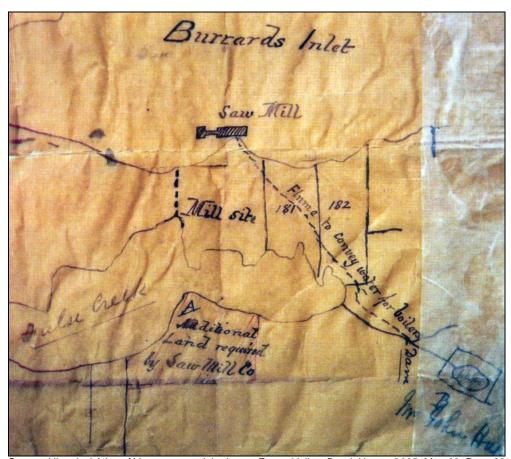
In 1863 the *Colony of British Columbia* set aside a block of land for a town that was expected to develop along the shores of what was considered one of the finest harbours on the West Coast. Although it was *Granville* (*aka Gastown*) farther west that eventually developed into the great port city, a small resort, *New Brighton*, did develop on the Burrard Inlet shoreline. ⁽⁷⁾

In 1865, during the construction of the second sawmill on Burrard Inlet (*Stamp's Mill*), the *Colony of British Columbia* upgraded the old native trail to a stagecoach road and the New Brighton Hotel was built at *Khanamoot* as a seaside resort for holidaying residents of New Westminster.



Source: Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley, Derek Hayes, 2005, Map 113, Page 60.

1863 Map Surveyed By Lance-Corporal George Turner, RE — Note Lot 181 (Burnaby) and Lot 182 (Crease) Pre-empted in 1860



Source: Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley, Derek Hayes, 2005, Map 60, Page 33.

1865 Sketch Map Showing the Flume to Stamp's Saw Mill — Note Parcel 'B' in the lower right corner (DL 195) and the name "Mr. John Hall"

In June 1867, Captain Edward Stamp logged 100 acres around what is now known as *Brockton Point* providing a clearing for settlement, and in July of that year — with British financing — Stamp established the area's first sawmill at *Stamp's Landing* on the south shore of Burrard Inlet. *Stamp's Mill* was located at the north foot of today's Dunlevy Street, and the company built a flume from Trout Lake to its mill site to sustain its steam-driven machinery. A settlement eventually known as the *Granville Townsite* developed around *Stamp's Mill*.



Capt. Edward Stamp (BCA A-01768)

John Hall (1819–1889) was born around 1819 (8) in Lisburn, County Antrim, Northern Ireland (20), and was in New Westminster during the time of Colonel R. C.

Moody. John Hall's older brother, Valentine Hall, was also one of the early pioneers of British Columbia. The brothers emigrated to Canada West (Ontario) with their parents while youths, and when that part of Canada was still a comparative wilderness. The gold discoveries on the Fraser River induced the brothers to emigrate to the new *Colony of British Columbia* in 1859. ⁽⁹⁾

Valentine Hall (1817–1866), a resident of Oxford County (Ontario) for many years, was elected to the first Council for the town of Woodstock in 1851. (10) Valentine was also the

Clerk for Oxford County from 1858 to 1859 (11) prior to leaving for the Fraser River gold rush in 1859. When the *City of New Westminster* incorporated on 17th July 1860, Valentine Hall became New Westminster's first City Clerk and Postmaster. *Hall Street* in New Westminster, which appeared from 1859 to 1863, was named after Valentine Hall. (12) Although a resident of New Westminster for only six years before his death in 1866, Valentine was closely identified with all the political, social and benevolent reforms and movements of the time. His rare abilities as a *Notary Public* established for himself a large business, and his name was identified with the rise and progress of more than one public institution in New Westminster. (9)

In the early 1860s, John Hall did a considerable amount of work for the newly incorporated City of New Westminster such as clearing and repairing the dirt roads. (13) John Hall also did a lot of exploring for Colonel Moody (14) (15) and others (16) and was also prominent in 1860 and later years in staking lands in the vicinity of the Coquitlam River and Pitt River trail from the Royal Engineers camp in New Westminster, and in the vicinity of False Creek. (17)(18) These Hall held under the preemption regulations until the survey was made, and then abandoned them to be sold at auction or private sale to other persons for whom he was said to have been holding the claims. (17) Hall is recorded as having pre-empted 160 acres outside of New Westminster in 1863, for which he received a Crown Grant on 16th July 1866. He is also recorded (14) as having pre-empted District Lot 195 (162 acres) on the trail from New Westminster to False Creek, which included Trout Lake from which the water supply for Stamp's Mill (later Hastings Mill) "was brought in by means of a flume some 3 miles in length" (19), and also in part, was the water supply of the people living on the *Granville Townsite*. (14) Another property for which John Hall had an unrecorded claim, but which his brother Valentine Hall did have a claim, was District Lot 200A (Parcel 'A' on the 1865 sketch map above) on the south side of False Creek at Main Street. (17)(18)

In early 1870, a little over a year before the *Colony of British Columbia* joined Canadian Confederation, John Hall applied for pre-emption of District Lot 229, a plot of wilderness beauty lying north of Burrard Inlet on the east side of the North Arm (Indian Arm), and on September 22nd, 1870, the application was registered. ⁽²⁰⁾ Hall built a cottage, planted a garden and an orchard on a piece of land partially cleared in earlier times by aboriginals. John Hall took to wife (common-law) a Squamish woman named Chial-Hote (Chial-Hate) from the nearby reservation (I.R. #3) on the north shore of Burrard Inlet. They had three daughters, born about 1873 (Agathe), 1877 (Mary Jane) and 1879 (Edith Josephine). ⁽²¹⁾ On September 4th, 1882, title to District Lot 229 was registered in Hall's name. As a consequence, John Hall became Belcarra's first European settler; his property included the present-day Belcarra picnic grounds, the Turtlehead and Whiskey Cove areas, and more than half of the Belcarra Peninsula.

Henry Pering Pellew Crease arrived in Victoria from Toronto in 1858, and on 18th December 1858 became the first barrister qualified to practice in both colonies of *Vancouver Island* and *British Columbia*, when he was admitted and enrolled as a Barrister of *Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Civil Justice of Vancouver's Island* at Victoria by Chief Justice David Cameron and *British Columbia* by Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie. On 2nd March 1860, Crease took his seat in the *House of Assembly* (Second Parliament) as a member for Victoria District. He accepted the additional responsibility of Attorney General of the *Colony of British Columbia* on 14th October 1861, and subsequently resigned his seat in January 1862 when he moved to New Westminster to undertake his new duties. He



Judge H.P.P. Crease (BCA B-01397)

was a member of the first legislative council of British Columbia, which sat on 21st January 1864, and served on the Executive Council to Governor Frederick Seymour. (22)

Correspondence (23) (24) found in the *Crease Family Papers* in the *British Columbia Archives* (see Appendix 'A') indicates that in January 1868, Judge Crease discovered that trees ("spars and knees") were being cut without authorization on Robert Burnaby's 1860 Crown Land pre-emption (District Lot 181) that was located adjacent to *Stamp's Mill* (District Lot 196, previously designated as a *Naval Reserve*). Judge Crease held title to District Lot 182 which was located immediately next to Robert Burnaby's property. It's likely that the trespass and unauthorized cutting was a result of the convenient proximity of Burnaby's property to the adjacent mill site.

The correspondence included a letter to John Hall dated 12th January 1868 which suggests that Judge Crease had engaged John Hall to act as a intermediary with the three individuals who were trespassing on his and Robert Burnaby's properties. The letter is extremely difficult to read due both to Judge Crease's handwriting and the practice of the day to save paper by writing a second "layer" of text perpendicular to the first "layer" (see Appendix 'A'). The correspondence has been transcribed for the convenience of the reader and is presented below.

Communications of the day were very slow. It often took days to send messages between New Westminster to Victoria, which relied on steamers travelling between the two locations. It also was the practice of the day to hire the local natives to carry messages to individuals, as indicated in the first line of the letter to John Hall: "I have your letter [delivered] by Dikles the Indian."



William Norman Bole (BCA A-06689)

The outcome of the incident is not known; however, Judge Crease's telegram of January 14th, 1868, to Robert Burnaby indicates that the incident continued to escalate, that arrest warrants were sought, and that charges of theft were to be laid.

Another interesting footnote is that John Hall would "cross paths" with Judge Crease again in 1882 when he was charged with the murder of his mother-in-law. John Hall was defended by a young Irish lawyer named William Norman Bole, later know as "lightening justice" Judge Bole. That event resulted in title to John Hall's North Arm (Indian Arm) property being transferred to Bole who gave "Belcarra" its name. But that is another story.

[Page 45] Telegram No.1 — New Westminster — 4th Jan 1868 To Robert Burnaby — From H. P. Crease

Have Ross and Houston who have cut now carrying away two hundred dollars worth spars on your Burrard Inlet lot. Your any authority [?] Telegraph instructions. — [Signed] H. P. Crease

H. G. Crease

[Page 46] Telegram No.2 — New Westminster — 10th Jan 1868 To Robert Burnaby — From H. P. Crease

Answer delayed. Assumed authority & stopped trespass. Could not wait for instructions. Seized spars and ships knees [in] your name. Will send messenger to report. Write progress by letter.

— [Signed] H. P. Crease

[Page 47] Letter To John Hall From Judge H. P. P. Crease

New Westminster, 12 Jan 1868 Mr. John Hall

I have your letter [delivered] by Dikles the Indian.

Yesterday I received a telegram from Mr. Burnaby that no one had any authority to cut any [spars] on his lot (the one next to the mill). As you know, no one but Mat & James Hall have authority to cut on my two lots. They only [can cut] cedar. [Judge Crease is most likely referring to Matthew Hall and James Hall who were former Royal Engineers who stayed behind in British Columbia after the Columbia Detachment was disbanded in November 1863. John Hall was <u>not</u> related to them.] Mr. Burnaby instructs me to seize all the spars and knees cut on his lot. You will therefore at once warn Mssrs. Ross and Houston and all other trespassers including Powell, that they do not touch Mr. Burnaby's or ... [continued on reverse side of page]

[Page 48, reverse side of page 47] ... my property (or Mr. Burnaby's Lot, spars or knees) without my or Mr. Burnaby's express authorization.

In order that the Mill people may not be disappointed of spars and knees, you can make any arrangement on behalf of Mr. Burnaby and myself you think right and just — and I will back it — but first let Mssrs. Houston and Powell have an opportunity of coming to fair terms with Mr. Burnaby and myself for the spars and knees. But in any case, seize or forbid the carrying away of a single spar or knee from either lot until properly arranged for & payment made or secured.

[Page 48, perpendicular text] One of course can take the security of his for of his writing.
In order to prevent the causing me to in touch, I empower you to conclude with the parties subject to what I have written, as you may think best for my and Mr. Burnaby's interest. I have not said the Indian report progress from time to time [Signed] Henry P. Pellew Crease
I cannot take either Houston's, Powell's or Ross's security. — [Signed] H. P. Crease
[Page 47, diagonal text] If you write me to pay any always tell me how much each time.

[Page 49] Telegram No.3 — New Westminster — 14th Jan 1868 To Robert Burnaby, Victoria — From H. P. Crease

Some spars forcibly taken. Warrants arrest. Ross and Houston stealing. Come my house. Enterprise prove property or send Crown Grant Power Attorney and letter. — [Signed] H. P. Crease

Crease Family Papers (BCARS MS-2879, Box 28, File 5) — Transcribed

Letter To H.P.P. Crease From Matthew Hall — February 4th, 1868. (Received from John Hall personally, 5th February 1868 — HPPC notes)

Burrard Inlet

Sir,

John Hall read a letter to me from you which states that I should not have been paid anything for the 3 days that I was employed by your orders in finding-out, counting and marking the ships knees cut by Powell. When that affair was settled we both thought that my services would not be wanted anymore. He therefore said he would pay me \$2.00 per day, which he thought fair and right. I did not know at that time that you did not intend to pay me anything for the 3 days. If I had known I should not have taken it [the job]. I had to settle with James Hall for the time I have been away on this business. I have travelled about from place to place to keep people from cutting the timber, for which I make no charge, and will do so as long as I am here. We will put up notices on the [Burrard] inlet side of the lots, as John Hall says he will do so on False Creek, according to your letter sent by James Hall.

I am Sir, respectfully, your servant,

Matthew Hall



Matthew Hall, RE (BCA B-05249)

References:

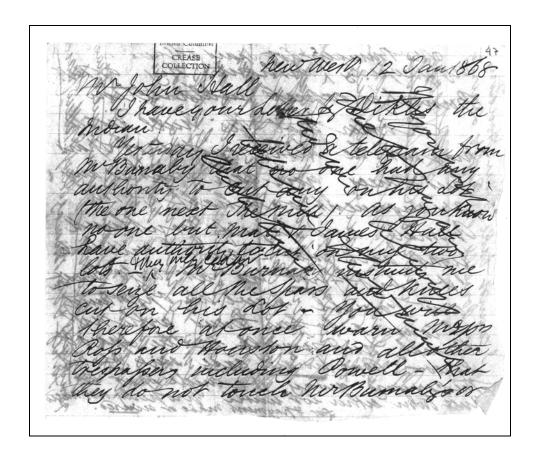
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- (4) Derek Hayes, *Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley*, Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, BC, 2005, Map 60, page 33.
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- (8) Judge H.P.P. Crease, "bench book" notes recorded during John Hall's murder trial, 1882, British Columbia Archives.
- (9) "Death of an Old Pioneer", British Columbian, March 21st, 1866.
- (10) City of Woodstock website: http://www.city.woodstock.on.ca/index.php
- (11) County of Oxford website: http://www.ocl.net/archives/clerks.html
- (12) City of New Westminster website: http://www.nwheritage.org/heritagesite/history/content/streets/hm.htm
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- (15) J. S. Matthews, 1936, Early Vancouver Volumes, City of Vancouver Archives, Add. MSS 54, Vol. 5, pages 138-139.
- (16) John Hall, "Report to the New Westminster Exploring Association", *The British Columbian*, September 3rd, 1864, page 3.
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- (18) Laing, F.W., 1939, "Colonial Farm Settlers on the Mainland of British Columbia, 1858–1871", Victoria, B.C., pages 3, 13, 17, and 27.
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- (21) Jeremy Matson (John Hall's great-great-grandson), personal communication, December 2013.
- (22) British Columbia Archives, Cat. MS-0054 (Photograph: BCARS B-01397).
- (23) Crease Family Papers, British Columbia Archives, Cat. MS-0055, Box 1, File 1, Pages 45–49.
- (24) Crease Family Papers, British Columbia Archives, Cat. MS-2879, Box 28, File 5, Reel A01826.

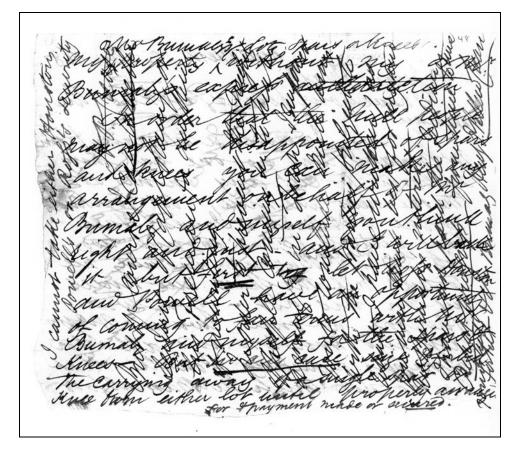
APPENDIX 'A'

Crease Family Papers (BCARS MS-0055, Box 1, File 1, Pages 45-49)

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APPENDIX 'B'

Crease Family Papers (BCARS MS-2879, Box 28, File 5, Reel A01826)

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that time that you did not intend to pan me anything for the 3 days if i had known I Schauld not have taken it I had to settle with sames & Hall for the time I have been away on this Buisness I have traveled about from place to place to keep people from cutting the timber for which & make no Charge and will do to as long as I here we will but up notisies on the inslet side of the lots as John Hall Says he will do so on

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